

Message Text

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14

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-15 USIA-15 ACDA-19 DRC-01 NEA-10 /154 W

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R 250736Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1719

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L CANBERRA 5306

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SEATO, AS

SUBJ: AUSTRALIAN REPRESENTATION AT UNGA AND SEATO COUNCIL

REF: (A) CANBERRA 5262; (B) STATE 190143

1. DCM CALLED UPON SENATOR WILLESEE AND STATED US CONCERN AT
LEVEL OF REPRESENTATION SEATO COUNCIL MEETING, EMPHASIZING POINTS
REFTEL B.

2. WILESEE SAID HE WISHED TO ASSURE US HE WAS DEEPLY CONCERNED
BY DELAY IN HIS DEPARTURE FOR NEW YORK AND KNEW WE UNDERSTOOD
PROBLEM WAS COMPLETELY UNRELATED TO AUSTRALIAN POSITION RE SEATO.
WILLESEE SAID HE HAD JUST RECEIVED INFORMAL OFFER OF COMPROMISE ON
PRICE CONTROL BILL FROM MINORITY DLP PARTY WHICH OCCUPIES SWING
POSITION THIS ISSUE IN SENATE. COMPROMISE (A BILL WHICH WOULD
PROVIDE FOR TWO-PART REFERENDUM OFFERING OPTION OF APPROVING
EITHER PRICE CONTROL OR INCOMES CONTROL OR BOTH TO VOTER) WOULD
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BE PRESENTED TO LABOR PARTY CAUCUS AT MEETING SCHEDULED

7:00 P.M. CANBERRA TIME (3:00 A.M. SEPTEMBER 25 WASHINGTON TIME.)

3. WILLESEE ANTICIPATED CAUCUS APPROVAL. HE WAS VERY OPTIMISTIC THAT VOTE COULD BE HELD IN SENATE TOMORROW, SEPTEMBER 26, PERMITTING HIM TO LEAVE FOR NEW YORK THAT EVENING. THUS HE EXPECTED ARRIVE IN GOOD TIME FOR WORKING DINNER PRIOR COUNCIL MEETING.

4. WILLESEE SAID THAT IF UNFORESEEN PARLIAMENTARY DEVELOPMENTS PREVENTED THIS TIMETABLE, GOA WOULD BE REPRESENTED BY AMBASSADOR PLIMSOLL. IN THAT CASE, HE ASSURED US, PUBLIC STATEMENT WOULD BE MADE BY WHITLAM OR HIMSELF EXPLAINING CIRCUMSTANCES WHICH PREVENTED HIS PRESENCE AND MAKING CLEAR THIS DEVELOPMENT HAD NO REPEAT NO RELATION TO CONTINUED AUSTRALIAN PARTICIPATION IN SEATO. WILLESEE GAVE IMPRESSION THAT IF SUCH STATEMENT WERE NECESSARY IT MIGHT WELL CONTAIN RATHER FORTHCOMING LANGUAGE ON AUSTRALIAN POLICY TOWARD SEATO.

5. BELIEVE THERE IS NOTHING ELSE WE CAN DO ON THIS ISSUE. GOA IS FULLY AWARE OF OUR CONCERN AND IS SENSITIVE TO IT. HOWEVER, THERE APPEARS TO BE NO POSSIBILITY THAT WILLESEE WILL COME IF PARLIAMENTARY SITUATION REMAINS UNRESOLVED. WILL REPORT ANY FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS.
GREEN

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NNN

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